

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON:AORG:ECAFE

SU J: RED:ECAFE:RATIONALIZATION PROJECT;SECOND MEETING OF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES

REF: BANGKOK 18660

1. SUMMARY: SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS WAS MADE AT ECAFE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (PR) SECOND FORMAL MEETING TO RATIONALIZE ECAFE'S CONFERENCE STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES. INFORMAL GROUP (DESCRIBED REFTEL) BELIEVES THAT 75 TO 80 PERCENT OF ITS OBJECTIVES WERE MET. THE FREQUENCY AND DURATION OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES WERE REDUCED AND A NEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WAS CREATED. OUR ONLY REGRET IS THAT WE WERE UNABLE RPT UNABLE TO ELIMINATE ALL SUB-COMMITTEES FORTHW*TH*. INSTEAD THE VARIOUS COMMITTEE *OLD*AND PROPOSED NEW ONES) MUST MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE THIRTY-FIRST COMMISSION SESSION IN 1975 ON THEIR RETENTION OR ABOLISHMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PRS SPENT THREE FULL DAYS (DECEMBER 3, 4 AND 6) DEBATING AGENDA ITEMS RELATING TO CONFERENCE STRUCTURE, TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PRS. (NOW CALLED ADVISORY COMMITTEE) GUIDELINES FOR ECAFE MEETINGS WERE REFERRED BACK TO THE SECRETARIAT FOR REVISION; THESE ARE BEING REFORMULATED INTO TWO SECTIONS, ONE DEALING WITH MEETINGS AND THE OTHER
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WITH SECRETARIAT ACTIVITIES, AND WILL BE ISSUED WITHIN A MONTH FOR PR COMMENT BY FEBRUARY 1. FINAL COPIES OF THE REPORT OF THIS SECOND PR MEETING ARE EXPECTED DECEMBER 14 ANDU DLL BE TRANSMITTED IMMEDIATELY.

3. PRS MADE 13 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE COMMISSION. THESE INCLUDED NAMING ALL SECOND LAYER LEGISLATIVE BFCDES "COMMITTEES" EXCEPT FOR AD GC CONFERENCES. THE FOLLOWING SEVEN NEW COMMITTEES WERE RECOMMENDED: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC PLANNING, INDUSTRY HOUSING AND TECHNOLOGY, NATURAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, POPULATION, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS. TWO COMMITTEES (TRADE AND TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION) REMAIN UNCHANGED, ALTHOUGH THEY MAY BE SUBJECTED TO SUBSTANTIAL REVISION IF PROPOSED NEW COMMITTEE ON INVISIBLES AND SHIPPING SHOULD RECEIVE COMMISSION APPROVAL.

4. FREQUENCY - THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS OF THESE SECOND-LAYER BODIES WERE RESTRUCTURED TO SEVEN PER YEAR INCLUDING NOT MORE THAN ONE AD HOC CONFERENCE ANNUALLY. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF DAYS FOR MEETINGS AT THIS LEVEL WERE RESTRICTED ANNUALLY TO 50 CALENDAR DAYS. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WOULD MEET BIENNIALY WITH THE FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE; ECONOMIC PLANNING WOULD MEET ONCE IN THREE YEARS; INDUSTRY, HOUSING AND TECHNOLOGY WOULD MEET ANNUALLY. POPULATION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WOULD EACH MEET ONCE EVERY THREE YEARS AND STATISTICS ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS. THE OTHER TWO OLD COMMITTEES WOULD STILL MEET ANNUALLY.

5. SUB-COMMITTEES - THIS WAS THE MOST CONTINUOUS ISSUE. THE MAJORITY OF THE PRS WANTED SUB-COMMITTEES ABOLISHED IMMEDIATELY UPON THE COMMISSION'S APPROVAL OF THE NEW CONFERENCE STRUCTURE BUT THE PAKISTANI, INDIANS AND SOVIETS WITH THE WELL-ORCHESTRATED SUPPORT OF SRI LANKA AND BANGLADESH WERE ABLE TO GET THIS ISSUE WATERED DOWN. ORIGINALLY THE REPORT WAS GOING TO STATE THAT ONLY THREE PRS OPPOSED REPLACING THE SUBSIDIARY OR THIRD-LEVEL BODIES (SUB-COMMITTEES) BY AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS AND THAT THESE THREE PRS RECOMMENDED THAT THE EXISTING LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES CAREFULLY REVIEW THE REORGANIZATION OF THEIR SUBSIDIARY BODIES WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UK DELEGATION. WE SUCCEEDED IN INSERTING STATEMENT THAT COMMISSION MIGHT GIVE PRS AND SECRETARIAT OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW COMMITTEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SUBORDINATE AD HOC BODIES. THE REST OF THE PRS INSISTED THAT A CLEAR RECOMMENDATION WAS CALLED FOR AND THAT LETTING THE COMMITTEES DO THE JOB WOULD DEFEAT THE PURPOSE OF THE RATIONALIZATION PROJECT. THE FINAL REPORT STILL HIGHLIGHTS THE DIFFERING POINTS OF VIEW BUT REFERS TO THE MINORITY AS SOME AND THE MAJORITY AS MANY.

6. COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING AND INVISIBLES - AS EXPECTED PER REFTEL, SRI LANKA PUSHED HARD FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW COMMITTEE ON SHIPPING AND INVISIBLES CITING AS AN ADDITIONAL ARGUMENT THE AGREEMENT OF THE MAJORITY OF THE PRS TO THE FORMATION OF A NEW COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS PROPOSAL

WAS STRONGLY
OPPOSED BY PRS OF AUSTRALIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN,
MALAYSIA AND THAILAND (WITH UK RESYGVATIONS). THE WHOLE ISSUE
WAS ORIGINALLY PLACED AT THE END OF THE REPORT AND HIGHLIGHTED
AS THE ONLY UNRESOLVED ISSUE. HOWEVER, IN THE MANEUVERING
REGARDING THE ISSUE OF THHTYTHIRD LAYER BODIEFE KDESCRS EEOPARA 5
ABOVE) SRI LANKA WAS ABLE TO GET THE ISSUE MOVED TO A LESS
EXPOSED AND MORE MUFFLED POSITION IN THE SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS.
SRI LANKA WAS JOINTED BY INDIA IN SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF THIS
SHIPPING COMMITTEE.

7. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE - A DRAFT TERMS
OF REFERENCE DESCRIBED IN PARA 5 REFTTEL WAS CLOATED AS PLANNED
BUT IT SANK QUICKLY WITHOUT A TRACE -- PERHAPS, MAINLY BECAUSE
THE RI LANKA PR CALLED IT ERRONEOUSLY AN "AMERICAN" DRAFT
(WE DID INDEED TYPE UP THE VIEWS BY OTHER INFORMAL GROUP
MEMBERS) AND AUSTRALIA DECRIED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FORNB

ORGANIZATION, PREFERRING INSTEAD AN INFORMAL GROUPING. FORTU-
NATELY, INDONESIA HAD SUMMARIZED OUR TERMS OF REFERENCE PAPER
AND LISTED THE FUNCTIONS BGGIRABLE FOR SUCH A PR GROUP. THE
INDONESIAN DRAFT WAS QUICLY SUPPORTED BY ALL AND
ACCEPTED ALMOST VERBATIMTWP MORAL: DURING HIGHLY CHARGED ECAFE
DEBATES, US APPARENT SUPPORT CAN BE "THE KISS OF DEATH" AND
SHOULD BE AVOIDED.

8. DRAFT RESOLUTION - DEBATE DID NOT DEVELOP TO THE POINT WHERE
OWQ NETHERLANDS PR COULD SUBMIT HIS DRAFT. THE CHANCES ARE
GOOD, HOWEVER, THAT HE WILL PRESENT SUCH AUJESOLUTION AT THE
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PLENARY IN COLOMBO.

9. RED COMMENTS - THE SOUTH ASIANSTEFSSH STRONG SOVIET SUPPORT
CLEARLY OUTSMARTED THE PRS AND ASEAN COUNTRIES, BUT THE LATTER
SHOULD DO BETTER IN THE PLENARY SESSION. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
MARAMIS PRIVATELY CRITICIZED INDONESIAN PR FOR LACK OF EFFECTIVE-
NESS. WE EXPECT THE ISSUE OF SUBCOMMITTEES AND THE PROPOSED
SHIPPING COMMITTEE WILL
FACE AGAIN AT THE PLENARY. WE ARE
STILL PLEASED THAT DURING THE DEBATE OVER THE ELIMINATION OF
SUBCOMMITTEES, THE OPPOSITION OVERLOOKED AMENDING THE CHART O D
ECAFE CONFERENCE STRUCTURE WHICH PROVIDES FOR ONLY 14-15 AD HOC
BODIES TO HOLD MEETINGS FOR NOT MORE THAN 90-100 DAYS ANNUALLY.
WE SHALL REFER TO THIS CONSTANTLY IN THE UPCOMING COMMITTEE
MEETINGS BEFORE THE PLENARY.
KINTNER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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